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JUNE MEETING.

A stated monthly meeting was held on Thursday the 9th of June, at 11 o'clock, A.M. ; the President, Hon. ROBERT C. WINTHROP, in the chair.

The record of the last meeting was read.

The Librarian read his monthly list of donors to the Library.

The Corresponding Secretary read a letter of acceptance from the Hon. William T. Davis, of Plymouth.

He also read a letter from Thomas B. Akins, Esq., of Halifax, Nova Scotia, presenting a number of copies of the Journals of the Legislature of that Province, and offering to supply any deficiency in the Society's set of those volumes.

The Corresponding Secretary also read a letter from Colonel James Warren Sever, of Boston, presenting to the Society a silver canteen and a pewter plate, which once belonged to Governor Edward Winslow, of Plymouth, and which bear his arms and initials, and expressing the wish that a suitable inscription should be engraved upon the canteen, and that it should ever be preserved in the archives of the Society. Whereupon, the following resolution was unanimously adopted : —

Resolved, That the thanks of this Society be presented to Colonel James W. Sever, for the very interesting and highly acceptable relics of his ancestor, Governor Winslow, which have just been communicated in his letter of May 19th ; and that the request of the donor be complied with.

The President spoke of the death of Winthrop Sargent, Esq., a Corresponding Member, as follows : —

We have been called on of late to take notice of the deaths of Honorary or of Resident Members of our Society, who had completed, and more than completed, the common term of human existence, and in regard to whom we could have no regrets that they had left any expectations of future usefulness unfulfilled. It is our sadder duty, to-day, to

make mention of one who has been called away in the prime of life, and who had given large promise of valuable service in the cause of American History in years to come.

Mr. Winthrop Sargent was chosen a Corresponding Member of this Society in 1856. He was born in Philadelphia on the 23d of September, 1825, and had thus reached his forty-fifth year. He was graduated at the University of Pennsylvania, in 1845, and received the degree of Bachelor of Laws, at the Dane Law School of Harvard University, in 1847. He exhibited an early interest in historical pursuits and researches, and few persons of his age have made more creditable contributions to the illustration of our Revolutionary and ante-revolutionary period.

In 1855, he edited for the Pennsylvania Historical Society the Journals of Officers engaged in Braddock's Expedition, from original manuscripts in the British Museum, with an introductory Memoir of the highest interest; a volume which has been everywhere recognized as containing the most accurate and thorough account of an expedition in which Washington played so important a part, and in the preparation for which Franklin, also, was a conspicuous actor.

In 1857, he published a beautifully printed and carefully annotated collection of "The Loyalist Poetry of the Revolution."

In 1858, he edited for the Pennsylvania Historical Society a Journal of the General Meeting of the Cincinnati Society, in 1784, from the original manuscript of his grandfather, Major Winthrop Sargent, a delegate from Massachusetts, who had served with distinction in various capacities through the whole Revolutionary War, and who was afterwards Governor of the Mississippi Territory.

In 1860, he published "The Loyal Verses of Joseph Stansbury and Dr. Jonathan Odell, relating to the American Revolution."

In 1861, he published his most elaborate work,—"The Life and Career of Major John André,"—with a dedication to President Sparks; a volume full of attractive and valuable matter, and displaying the fruit of rich culture and rare accomplishments.

More than one of these productions, and especially the last, received honorable mention at home and abroad, and won the strong commendations of some of our best historical writers.

Mr. Sargent had more recently performed a labor of love for our own Society, in editing "The Letters of John Andrews, of Boston, from 1772 to 1776,"—which occupy nearly a hundred pages in our printed Proceedings for 1864 and 1865. He had also been a frequent contributor to the "North-American Review," and to others of our lead-

ing periodicals. But the events of the late war, and more especially the death of a beloved father, the late George Washington Sargent, a graduate of Harvard University in 1820,—who fell a victim, in 1864, to the unprovoked violence of a lawless soldiery,—interrupted his literary pursuits; and he thenceforth devoted himself to the quiet practice of his profession as a lawyer, in the city of New York. His failing health and spirits compelled him, during the last year, to seek rest and recreation in foreign lands; but he sought them in vain, and died of consumption in Paris on the 18th of May last.

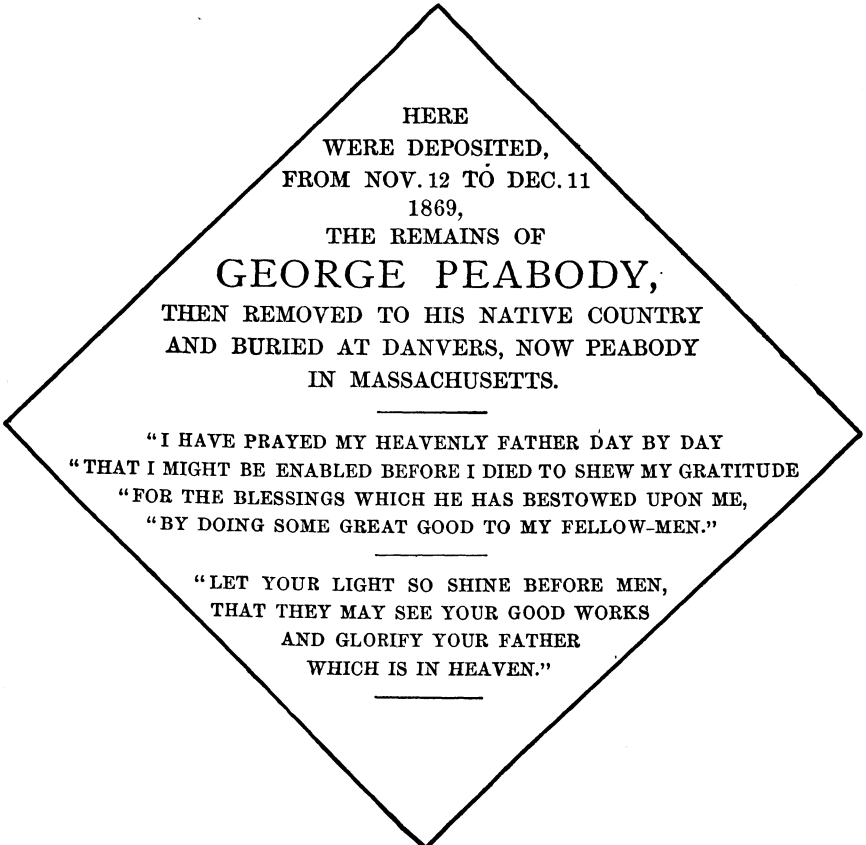
He was a gentleman of the greatest delicacy and refinement, of ready wit and large resources, and whose agreeable companionship had endeared him to many friends. He was married, in his earliest manhood, to a daughter of his relative, Ignatius Sargent, Esq., of this city, but had been a widower for many years past. An only child, a son, survives him.

It has not been our custom to pass formal resolutions on the death of our Corresponding Members; but this brief notice will serve to secure a place in our records for the name and career of one who so well deserves to be remembered among those who have labored successfully in the illustration of our National History, and whose lives have been cut short before they had fulfilled the rich promise of their spring.

At the conclusion of the President's remarks, Dr. HOLMES said that he rose to add a very few words. He held in his hand a letter addressed to him by Mr. Sargent, before leaving this country, accompanying a roll of the 4th Co. 8th Mass. Regiment, dated in the year 1782, which Mr. Sargent sent, thinking it probably contained the name of one of his correspondent's relatives. Dr. Holmes offered this paper to the Society, believing that it might have an intrinsic interest to some of the members. It would be valued, he felt sure, as the last token from a cherished associate, whose character had been most tenderly and truly drawn by the President. Mr. Sargent was a gentleman whom it was impossible to know without esteeming and loving. His scholarship was so genuine, his tastes were so pure, his manners were so engaging, that he made friends wherever he went. As one of those whose personal intercourse with him had been occasional only, but always delightful, he had listened with deep gratifica-

tion to the just and cordial tribute offered by our President to his memory.

The President exhibited a photograph of the inscription on the pavement of the Nave in Westminster Abbey, in Memory of George Peabody, which had been kindly sent to him by Dean Stanley. The inscription is in these words:—



HERE
WERE DEPOSITED,
FROM NOV. 12 TO DEC. 11
1869,
THE REMAINS OF
GEORGE PEABODY,
THEN REMOVED TO HIS NATIVE COUNTRY
AND BURIED AT DANVERS, NOW PEABODY
IN MASSACHUSETTS.

"I HAVE PRAYED MY HEAVENLY FATHER DAY BY DAY
"THAT I MIGHT BE ENABLED BEFORE I DIED TO SHEW MY GRATITUDE
"FOR THE BLESSINGS WHICH HE HAS BESTOWED UPON ME,
"BY DOING SOME GREAT GOOD TO MY FELLOW-MEN."

"LET YOUR LIGHT SO SHINE BEFORE MEN,
THAT THEY MAY SEE YOUR GOOD WORKS
AND GLORIFY YOUR FATHER
WHICH IS IN HEAVEN."

The President said that this memorial had recalled to his mind another monument in Westminster Abbey,—the only other one in which Massachusetts seemed to have a peculiar interest; namely, that to George, Lord Howe, who, under

Abercromby, in July, 1758, fell in an attack against Ticonderoga. For his virtues and military talents, Massachusetts, at the charge of £250, erected a monument to his memory.

The President spoke of the arrangements which were making for publishing the Sewall Papers, which had recently come into the possession of the Society. It was thought desirable that a subscription for a certain number of copies should be obtained beforehand, and the Standing Committee had prepared a subscription paper for names. The co-operation of the members was solicited.

The following committees were appointed: on the publication of the Sewall Papers, — Messrs Ellis, Torrey, Dexter, and Whitmore; on the “Hutchinson Papers,” so called, claimed by the State, — Messrs Ellis, Parker, Washburn, Clifford, G. T. Bigelow, Thomas, and Ellis Ames; on the Society’s Building, — the President, the Recording and Corresponding Secretaries, the Librarian, the Treasurer, Messrs. W. G. Brooks, Thayer, Mason, E. B. Bigelow, Lyman, and Appleton.

The President announced Part V. of the “Proceedings” as upon the table.

The President spoke of the return, and of their presence at the meeting this day, of Mr. Adams and Dr. Jacob Bigelow, who had each been on a tour to the West, — the one to Omaha, the other to San Francisco; and they were invited to report to the Society any thing which might occur to them as of interest.

Dr. BIGELOW responded, and gave a very graphic account of his visit to San Francisco, over the Pacific Railway.

Mr. ADAMS said he had nothing to report from his western tour, but he would read a letter which he had brought to the meeting, from Benjamin Franklin, addressed to Edmund Quincy, of Braintree.

LONDON Dec: 10, 1761.

SIR, — I should sooner have answer’d your obliging Letter of Jan^y 9, but that I hoped from time to time I might be able to obtain some satisfactory Answers to your Queries. As yet I have done little, that

kind of Information being look'd upon as a Part of the Mysteries of Trade, which the Possessors are very shy of communicating. But I think I am now in a Train of obtaining more, of which I hope soon to give you a good Account. In the mean time I may inform you that great Quantities of Wine are made both here and at Bristol from Raisins, not by private Families only for their particular use, but in the great Way by large Dealers, for the Country Consumption. As New England trades to Spaine with their Fish, it would I imagine be easy for you to furnish yourself at the best hand with Plenty of Raisins, & from them produce a genuine Wine of real Worth that might be sold with you for good Profit. Being lately at a Friend's House where I drank some old Raisin Wine that I found to be very good, I requested the — [Some portion of the letter torn off.] . . . sound and good. It is thought here, that by far the greatest Part of the Wine drank in England, is made in England. Fine Cyder or Perry is said to be the Basis, Sloes afford Roughness. Elder Berries Colour. And Brandy a little more Strength. But of this I have no certain Account. The Porter now so universally drank here, is I am assured, fined down with Isinglass or Fish Glue, for which 60,000£ p^r Annum is paid to Russia. Of late it has been discovered that this Fish glue is nothing more than the Souns of Cod or other Fish extended & dry'd in the Sun, without any other Preparation. So you may make what Quantity you please of it, and cheap, Fish being with you so plenty. I heartily wish you Success in your Attempts to make Wine from American Grapes. None has yet been imported here for the Premium. With great Esteem, I am, Sir,

Your most obedient
humble Servant

B. FRANKLIN.

P.S. The Negotiations
for a Peace, in which Canada
was to be forever ceded to England, are at present off.
But whenever they are resum'd, I am persuaded that will be [torn].

N.B. One Ez^t Hatch, near Greenwood's mastyard, tells me that the Cod Souns or other may be Sav'd by stringing up & drying, that under this circumstance they will not dissolve in any liquor hot nor cold; but that taken & wrapped up in clean linnen cloath or other cloath, & covered up in embers so as to wast them, they will then dissolve, & that they will answer y^e end of Glue; but not so well of cod

as the souns of hake, w^{ch} is catch'd in or near y^e fall; those many joyn-ers at distant places use as Glew for their Cabinet work: roasted first in order to dissolve as Glue.

[Addressed]

To
M^r EDMUND QUINCY,
at Braintree or

Free.

Boston.

B. FRANKLIN.

After reading the letter, Mr. Adams presented it to the Society.

A conversation occurring on the subject of the "Cardiff Giant," so called, excavated last year in the village of Cardiff, Onondaga County, N.Y., and recently exhibited in this city, the following passage was read from Clark's History of "Onondaga, or Reminiscences of Earlier and Later Times," &c., 1849 (from the chapter headed Traditions of the Onondagas): "The Quis-quis, or great hog, was another monster which gave the Onondagas great trouble, as did also the great bear, the horned water-serpent, the *stone giants*, and many other equally fabulous inventions, bordering so closely upon the truly marvellous, that the truth would suffer wrongfully if related in full; but nevertheless are found among the wild and unseemly traditions of the race." (Vol. I., p. 43.)

The Librarian, Dr. GREEN, called the attention of the Society to a letter which had been extensively printed in the newspapers, particularly at the South and West. It was signed "Cotton Mather," and purported to give the details of "a scheme to bagge Penne," on the part of the colony of Massachusetts. In an accompanying statement, it is said that the letter was found by "Mr. Judkins, the Librarian of the Massachusetts Historical Society, in overhauling a chest of old papers deposited in the archives of that body by the late Robert Greenleaf, of Malden." For the sake of historical truth, it is desirable to give an official contradiction to the story, and

to pronounce it a miserable forgery. The name of Mr. Judkins is entirely unknown at this library; no such chest of old papers, as is alleged to have been deposited in the archives of the Society, has ever been received; and no such person, as the one stated to have made the deposit, is known to the members. The letter first appeared in the *Easton, Penn.*, "*Argus*," of April 28, and is dated "September ye 15th 1682." At this time, Cotton Mather was only nineteen years old, which fact alone would be presumptive evidence that he was not connected with any such piratical scheme. The story was fabricated by some one with the intention of deceiving the public, either for the purpose of putting its credulity to the test, or for creating a prejudice against the early founders of New England.

A copy of an early manuscript of Daniel Webster, on the "Acquisition of the Floridas," was presented by Mr. T. R. MARVIN, the original paper to be returned after the Society shall have made such use of it as it might wish. The original had been given to Mr. Marvin by Mr. Webster himself. It was probably written as a college exercise while Mr. Webster was less than eighteen years of age, and twenty-one years before the acquisition of Florida was actually accomplished.

ACQUISITION OF THE FLORIDAS.

Question. Would it be advantageous to the United States to extend their territories?

It might be supposed that a Republic, whose territorial jurisdiction encircles a more extensive portion of the earth's surface than falls to the share of almost any sovereignty in Europe, would never exert her energies for her dominion. It is true, on general maxims, that our country is sufficiently large for a Republican government; but if, by an inconsiderable extension of our limits, we can avail ourselves of great natural advantages, otherwise unattainable, does not sound policy dictate the measure? We reduce the question to a single point: would not the acquisition of the Floridas be advantageous to the United States? Here let it be remembered, that that part of the territory of our gov-

ernment, which lies north of Florida, and west of the Alleghany Mountains, including the north-western territory, Tennessee, Kentucky, and a part of Georgia, is, by far, the most fertile part of the Union. Nowhere does the soil produce in such exuberance; nowhere is the climate so mild and agreeable. The agricultural productions of this quarter, must then, in a few years, become immense, far exceeding those of all the Atlantic States. The next inquiry is, how shall this superabundance be disposed of? How shall the lumber, wheat, and cotton of this country be conveyed to a West India or European market? The only practicable method of transportation is down the Mississippi and the other rivers that run into the Mexican Gulf; and we have here to reflect, that those rivers all run through a country owned by the king of Spain, — a monarch, capricious as a child, and versatile as the wind; and who has it in his power, whenever interest, ambition, or the whims of his fancy dictate, to do us incalculable injuries by prohibiting our western brethren from prosecuting commerce through his dominions. Suppose the Spanish sovereign should, this day, give orders to the fortress of New Orleans to suffer no American vessel to pass up or down the river: this would be an affliction not to be borne by those citizens who live along the banks of the Mississippi; but what steps could our government take in the affair? Must they sit still and fold their hands, while such an intolerable embargo presses our commerce? This would be an ill expedient. We might as well give Spain our whole western territory, as suffer her to control the commerce of it. The only way we could turn ourselves, in this case, would be to declare war against Spain, and vindicate our claims to free navigation by force of arms. Here, then, we are under necessity of extending our territories by possessing ourselves of all the country adjacent those rivers, necessary for our commerce, or of giving up the idea of ever seeing Western America a flourishing country. Therefore, since we are liable, every day, to be reduced to the necessity of seizing on Florida, in a hostile manner, or of surrendering the rights of commerce, it is respectfully submitted, whether it would not be proper for our government to enter into some convention with the king of Spain, by which the Floridas should be ceded to the United States.

D. WEBSTER.

DEC. 25, 1800.

The President communicated from our Corresponding Member, J. Francis Fisher, Esq., of Philadelphia, some verses addressed to the inhabitants of Boston at the time of "the

siege." Mr. Fisher says, "I do not know the author, but presume they were written in Philadelphia, or on the eastern shore of Maryland. It is possible also they may have been printed somewhere; but I suppose this would be more easily found out in Boston than here."

To the Inhabitants of Boston, when confined therein by General Gage.

GENTLEMEN, — The following Lines convey to you the Ideas of a youthfull fancy, concerning your (at present) alarming situation; they pretend to no merit; as an artificial and elaborate Composition they flow from Nature; and if they have slid into an easy harmony, it was accidental; or perhaps altogether owing to your Pathetic Misfortunes.

Those readers only, who can be equally affected with yours, or a similar situation, have a right to judge of the propriety of their Numbers, Diction, and Sentiment.

While public scenes your anxious thoughts employ,
That rob your ardent breasts of heart-felt joy;
While you replace fair justice on her Throne,
And for a Nation's freedom lose your own,
Firm while you stand the Champion of the Laws
And vindicate in Bonds the gen'ral Cause:
Bold behind Virtue's adamant Shield,
While reason's arms defensively you wield,
And nobly militant for common right,
Stem the land-torrent of oppressive might,
Say, shall th' officious muse invade your time,
And press the soft impertinence of Rhime?
Say, shall she find, O friends, a vacant Hour,
To steal attention from injurious pow'r:
Thro' troops, and guards, to cast her artless Lay,
Or thro' the mighty Fleet, to burst her way?
In gratulation, and condolment say,
Shall she her honorary tribute pay?
"Yes, I will give a pleasing fancy scope,
"And cheer your patriot hearts, with patriot hope;
"For spite of new made Laws, and new made kings,
"The freeborn Muse with lib'ral spirit sings.

O Friends, I view you glowing as I write,
And my warm mind presents thee to my sight:
From my full breast congenial Virtues break,
Flash'd thro' mine Eyes, and burning on my Cheek,
The bright contagion mutual ardor claims,
And all the patriot's fire, the bard inflames.

Let no mean vengeance prompt you to pursue,
Rebell'ous councils, with a selfish view.

By judgement right, by principle be brave ;
And not to others, nor yourselves, enslave.
By honour urg'd, by spleen oppos'd, proceed,
And still assert your Theory by Deed ;
America's advancement be your hope,
And national felicity your scope.
Not dreading death, if death alone can save,
Nor fond of life if life will but enslave.
Ah ! let no threats, no penal ills controul,
The noble purpose of your freeborn soul ;
Prerogative, with natal rights, defend,
To George, be true, and to his realms a friend.
Let not branch'd pow'r your purposes confound,
To each taxation shew the legal bound.
Let legislature shine with strength and grace,
Fixt like Paul's temple, on a solid Base.

Is there on Earth a sight to charm the Gods,
And claim attention from supreme abodes ;
'Tis when the patriot props a falling State,
And patient, struggles against adverse fate.
Each honest heart then shares his Heroic Woes,
Each soul, indignant of his sufferings glows.
Hardships for men just Providence design'd
As salutary med'cine for the mind ;
Makes vanquished persecution virtues test,
And danger prove the wisest and the best,
Bids round these distend her guardian Wing,
'Gainst vice oppressive, tho' impotent of sting ;
Adequate mansions and rewards assigns,
And own no worth, till exercised it shines.

Do ye, like men, altho' by fleets confined,
Ev'n then enjoy your Liberty of mind,
Prepar'd to look, piteous of meanness, down,
On little tyrants while they leer or frown,
Who dread a Nation, in its dawning ray,
As evil spirits the approach of Day.
At honour's wound, at Glory's groan elated,
Who know of merit, just enough to hate it.
O ! think crush'd virtue more elastic grows,
And rising 'gainst their weight, o'erturns her foes
Triumphant from Disgrace she gathers fame,
And loads the Agressors with retorted shame ;
Think how the brave, and good, with wisdoms Eyes,
View vill'ans honour's and their threats despise ;
Lords of themselves in Native greatness reign,
And unprecarious sov'reignty maintain.